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As to urban unemployment, Shanghai in East China was most seriously affected among the large cities on the Mainland. The All-China Federation of Trade Unions published an open letter to all its members on April 20, 1950 on the need of relief for the unemployed in Shanghai and other cities. It estimated that there were 150,000 unemployed, jeopardizing the livelihood of 500,000 workers and family dependants. In addition to other common causes for unemployment, East China, particularly the Shanghai area, had suffered bombardment by the Nationalist air force in the early days of the Communist regime. The Shanghai Federation of Trade Unions, called on all employed workers to contribute one day's pay for the relief of unemployed families.²⁸ At a work relief conference in Peking called by the Department of Labor in April 1954, it was reported that from July 1950 to the end of 1953 the Labor Bureau of the Shanghai People's Government had obtained work for 256,200 people.²⁹

V. CHILD WELFARE

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In 1931, following the international practice of dedicating one day in the year to the children, April fourth was promulgated as China's Children's Day by the Nationalist Government.

28. New China Monthly, Vol. II, No. 1, May 15, 1950, pp. 64-65.

29. Ibid., No. 5, May 1954, pp. 157-58.

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858 The Chinese Communist regime changed this date to June 1st, in accordance with a decision made by the International Democratic Women's Federation in 1949 at Moscow.³⁰ Children's Day as it is celebrated in the United States and in Great Britain was branded as "capitalistic," i. e., not designed for the well-being of the children of the laboring classes. Around June 1st every year, all the propaganda media are mobilized for the promotion of child welfare, praise of the happy state of children in Communist China and in the Communist bloc of nations, and derogatory references to the "plight" of children in the free nations. And it is also around this time in most large cities on the mainland of China that health examinations for children are conducted. In the period 1950-52, according to one report, more than 1,000,000 children throughout China received health examinations.³¹

In preparation for International Children's Day in 1952, the Shanghai Municipality gave a special broadcast. Two hundred children's delegates were present at the broadcast, and 268 listening units were organized with some 52,000 young listeners. The mayor of Shanghai,

30. Hung Hsin-t'ao, Chi-nien Chieh-jih Shih-shih Tzu-liao [History of the Memorial Days], Shanghai, 1953, i, pp. 180-83.

31. Hsin-hua Jih-pao [New China Daily], Chungking, May 30, 1953, p. 3.

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527 as the chief speaker, exhorted the children to
858 cultivate strong bodies, to master the Chinese
language, to study science, and to love the
fatherland and chairman Mao. On the evening
there was a campfire gathering of some 6,000
children with a number of government and
political leaders, fighting heroes, labor models,
scientists, and artists as guests. On this
occasion, there was a meeting of young scientists
at the Sino-Soviet Friendship Association and a
health exhibit in the Municipal Children's Health
Center. The New China Bookstore offered a
special ten per cent discount on all children's
books.³²

744 A mid-year report in 1952 on the progress
of child welfare and related work in East China
since 1950 claimed that 160 health centers,
stations, and mobile teams for women and
children had been established and over 10,000
midwives trained or re-educated. In the same
period, according to the report, about 19,000,
000 children were vaccinated against smallpox
and 70,000 were given B.C.G. shots. Several
million people were said to have visited the 46
health exhibits for women and children held in
747 East China. The report further claimed that
5,000 creches had been organized in the rural

32. Chieh-fang Jih-pao [Liberation Daily],
Shanghai, June 2, 1952, p. 1.